

I found it fitting that the Republicans spent so much time praying at their convention; after all, they will need no less than divine intervention in order to unite their party and salvage their ailing campaign. Maybe at the next big Republican shindig George Bush could attempt handling rattlesnakes, or Dan Quayle could speak in tongues. No, that wouldn't be a good idea — Quayle would probably mispronounce something.

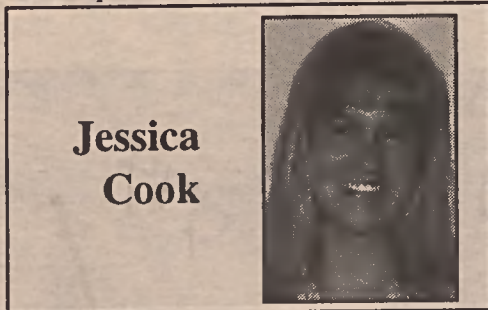
The whole spectacle reminded me of a PTL telethon. In fact, I'm sure Jim and Tammy Bakker would have felt right at home amidst all the blowhards and hypocrites. The speeches of the candidates were actually a lot like Tammy Faye's make-up — cheap and overdone, hiding some truly unattractive features.

Listening to George Bush and Dan Quayle trumpet about family values was repugnant. The Bush administration has all but ignored the needs of poor families. Children across the nation stagnate in brutal poverty and inferior

schools. Many families do not have access to proper health care due to cuts in social welfare programs. The president's family values also do not apply to many Central and South American families. There, the governments have free rein to murder and kidnap the children of so-call "political agitators" (often those whose only crime is voting) without fear of legal recourse. The clincher is that the U.S. government financially supports these countries in the interests of big business.

Bush also promised tax cuts. I say the day the president provides some real tax breaks will be when we are allowed to have keg parties at Meredith. In order to finance these "cuts" (Remember "Read my lips"?), Bush plans to cut Medicare and Medicaid, programs that are vital to the welfare of thousands of American families. Here, I find Bush's family values sorely lacking.

Overall, the convention was entertaining!



Jessica Cook

## Freshmen get ready!

by Amity Brown and Tracey Rawls

You've seen orientation. You've heard the speeches. You've been told you're "some kind of wonderful." But are you ready for the real Meredith College?

For the Class of 1996, the freshmen experience will not happen or even be explained at hall meetings or Insight 101. Your freshmen experience will be both gradual and sudden, will be marked by some of the monotonous and some of the unexpected.

First, there are a few things at Meredith that no one ever quite gets used to. For example, the one day of the week you can sleep in is inevitably the day maintenance chooses to mow the grass outside your window at 8 a.m. If that's not enough to disturb your hours of slumber, you probably can look forward to having either a night owl or an early bird in your suite.

Meredith also has a few unwritten traditions that you will soon discover. Belk Dining Hall serves more varieties of chicken dishes than you've ever seen at a potluck dinner at church. From everyday fried chicken to exotic chicketti, the dining hall serves enough chicken to keep Frank Perdue a wealthy man. Also, the Meredith College English department is notoriously tough. Will you be among the first to approach your English 111 professor saying, "But I made A's in high school." ? Then there is the contribution Meredith students (better yet, their beaus) make to the diamond industry. A rough estimate would show that perhaps one half of the junior and senior classes and one fourth of the sophomore class are engaged. No doubt, there are a few freshmen that could be added to that group.

Do these observations sound like complaints? Don't take them that way. They are some of

the characteristics that make Meredith College unique.

Once you get used to Meredith's quirks, you have to get used to the quirks that other people have about Meredith. Go ahead and think of an answer to the question, "What are you doing after your two years at Meredith?" You will probably also be asked when you will be receiving your Mrs. degree from Meredith.

Seriously now, we would all like to welcome the Class of 1996 to Meredith College. We are so glad that you are here. We look forward to meeting each of you. (Sound familiar??!) Oh, we almost forgot, don't let the roaches eat your roommate! Have a great year!

## THANKS!

I want to express my thanks to all the student leaders who served on the Orientation crew. This group did an outstanding job with orientation sessions, handbook training, and the balloon rainbow over the front drive. Thank you for all of your hard work and great attitudes. You definitely helped provide a warm welcome to the Class of 1996!

Madalyn Gaito

Interested in campus publications? Call..

Amy Clark--Yearbook  
829-7735

Leigh Ann Perkinson Literary Magazine  
829-7824

Amity Brown--Newspaper  
829-7782

### Meredith Herald

Editor in Chief  
Amity Brown

Layout Editor..... Tracey Rawls  
Editorial/Op. Editor Jessica Cook  
Business Manger..... Gilda Boyd  
Copy Editor..... Susan Finley  
News Editor..... Beth Lowry  
Features Editor. Sonali Kolhatkar

Layout Assistant..... Betsy Mao  
Reporter..... Frances Pate  
Reporter..... Trista Schagat  
Reporter..... Julie Smith  
Contributing Writers.... Jennifer Hartig, Kathy Hoksclaw, Hollis Hayworth  
Foreign Correspondent..... Ellen Williamson

Advisor  
Nan Miller

Technical Advisor  
Laura Davenport

#### Editorial Policy

The Meredith Herald is published by the College throughout the academic year. The paper is funded by the college and through advertising. The Herald retains the right not to publish materials containing personal attacks, insults, ridicule, or libelous statements. All letters to the editor must be signed. The opinions expressed in editorial columns do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

#### Letters to the Editor Policy

Everyone in the Meredith community is invited to write a letter to the editor. All published letters must be typewritten with contact name and address and telephone number. All letters must be signed by the author, but names will be withheld upon request.